

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9404
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3581

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, ET
SUBJECT: UN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REFS: (A) STATE 188247 (B) STATE 203944

SUMMARY. WE HAVE PRESENTED ARGUMENTS ON PUERTO RICO
TO FOREIGN MINISTRY (MOFA) AND HOLD OUT HOPE FOR
SUPPORT FOR USG POSITION IN UN COMMITTEE OF 24.
END SUMMARY.

1. WE PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE INCORPORATING JULY 25
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION AND POINTS MADE IN
PARAS 5 AND 7 OF REFTEL A TO MOFA DEPUTY HEAD OF
AMERICAS DIVISION, TASSEW MAKONNEN AUGUST 14.
OUR AIDE MEMOIRE ALSO REFERRED TO THE CHIEF OF
STATE'S REMARKS TO THE AMBASSADOR AT THE JULY
21 PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY IN WHICH
MENGISTU VOLUNTEERED THAT THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT
(PMGSE) SHARED THE USG VIEW THAT PUERTO RICO
WAS A DOMESTIC QUESTION.

2. WE DISCUSSED THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE WITH
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THE AMERICAS DIVISION PARTLY BECAUSE THE HEAD
OF THAT DIVISION HAD HEARD MENGISTU'S REMARKS
VIVA VOCE, (WHICH THE HEAD OF THE MOFA INTERNA-
TIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION DID NOT) AND
PARTLY BECAUSE THE LATTER HAS BEEN UNAVAILABLE
FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD. WE WERE ASSURED THAT A
COPY OF OUR AIDE MEMORIE AND A REPORT OF OUR

DEMARCHE WOULD BE URGENTLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION AND
THAT WE WOULD BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PMGSE'S
POLICY DISCUSSIONS OF THE ISSUE THIS YEAR.

3. WE MAY STILL HOPE FOR PMGSE SUPPORT ON THE
PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24.
QUESTIONS OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY ARE VITAL ISSUES
OF PRINCIPLE FOR THE PMGSE DUE TO SOMALI CLAIMS ON
THE OGADEN AREA OF SOUTHERN AND EASTERN ETHIOPIA
AND THE ERITREAN SECESSIONIST MOVEMENTS IN THE
NORTH. FURTHER, MENGISTU'S REMARKS CANNOT BE
LIGHTLY IGNORED BY THE MOFA IN SENDING INSTRUCTIONS
TO ITS UN DELEGATION. LASTLY, THERE IS PRECEDENT
FOR PMGSE SUPPORT OF OUR POSITION IN LAST YEAR'S
VOTE. ON THE OTHER HAND, DECLARATIONS AT THE END
OF MENGISTU'S VISIT TO HAVANA IN APRIL AND CUBAN
FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA'S VISIT TO ADDIS IN
MARCH INDICATE STRONG POSSIBILITY OF SHIFT TOWARD
CUBAN POSITION. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, ETHIOPIANS
WILL DECIDE HOW TO VOTE IN BASIS OF ITS OVERALL
POSITION VIS-A-VIS US AND CUBA AS TIME FOR VOTE
APPROACHES.

4. WE WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE MOFA
ON THIS ISSUE, TAKE IT UP AT HIGHER LEVELS AS
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THE OCCASIONS PRESENT THEMSELVES, AND ADVISE OF
DEVELOPMENTS AS WE LEARN THEM.
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